States affected by maoist Violence

†*238. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Indian States getting affected due to the outbreak of Maoist violence in Nepal and the names of the districts affected by Maoist violence prevailing in these States:

(b) whether Government of India are providing any special help in order to tackle this situation prevailing in the said States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) In view of the open border between the two countries, the spread of Maoist violence in Nepal has adverse implications, particularly in the States bordering Nepal, namely, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.

(b) and (c) The assistance being provided by the Central Government to help these States to tackle the situation includes deployment of Sashastra Seema Bali (SSB) along Indo-Nepal border and strengthening of police infrastructure in affected States.

Construction of roads under PMGSY

†*239. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMET be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment of the total lengt of roads needed to be constructed in rural areas of the country has been made by the Government under the "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana";

(b) the total length of roads, the construction work of which was completed till the end of March, 2004 under this yojana; and

(c) the length of roads at which construction work is in progress?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. According to surveys conducted by State Governments the total road length required to connect about 1.70 lakh eligible unconnected habitations is about 3.70 lakh kms.

(b) and (c) As reported by States, of the 1,01,308 kms. of roadworks

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

cleared upto March 2004, road length of about 51,500 kms. has been completed up to March, 2004 and construction of balance length of about 49,800 kms. remains to be completed.

T&D losses

*240. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the national average of transmission losses; and

(b) the measures taken to curtail losses during transmission and distribution in order to make the State Electricity Boards commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As per the information furnished by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) the average transmission and distribution losses in the country for the year 2002-03 are 32.54%.

(b) The measures taken to curtail losses during transmission and distribution in order to make the State Electricity Boards commercially viable are:

(i) Metering of 11 kv feeders and consumer metering;

(ii) Energy accounting and auditing;

(iii) Strengthening the provisions, relating to theft of power in Electricity Act, 2003;

(iv) Implementation of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system and providing incentive for reducing cash losses by SEBs/Utilities.

(v) Establishment of regulatory mechanism at Central as well as State levels.

(vi) Loan assistance by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC);

(vii) IT initiatives like consumer billing and customer care.

(viii) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS).